

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A method of manufacturing elements of relatively small size, especially such as planchettes, comprising the following steps:
 - unwinding a wound sheet is ~~unwound~~, then
 - optionally, printing this sheet is ~~printed~~ at least partly on at least one side, and then
 - cutting deeply right through the sheet is ~~cut deeply “right through” along~~ by a succession of at least two cutting patterns that intersect so as to constitute a resulting pattern that ~~will form~~forms a detached element constituting the element of relatively small size, this cutting operation taking place by means of a succession of synchronized cutting cylinders each carrying at least one respective cutting thread that cuts one of the cutting patterns respectively, ~~anvil cylinders~~ said cutting cylinders being in succession along a conveying path of the sheet, at least one anvil cylinder being interposed between these cutting cylinders, the sheet passing between all these cylinders and
 - recovering the detached elements that form said elements of relatively small size are recovered.

2. (Previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the steps are carried out in line.

3. (Previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein it is carried out at a speed of between 20 and 150 m/min.

4. (Previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sheet is a sheet of paper, a sheet of nonwoven or a sheet of plastic, or a complex of these materials.

5. (Previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheet is printed by flexography.

6. (Currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheet is printed in an amount of 1 to 10 g/m² per side, ~~preferably between 2 and 5 g/m² per side.~~

7. (Previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheet is printed on only one side.

8. (Currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheet is printed on both its sides in succession by front/back registration, ~~in particular by turning the sheet over or by reversing the rotation of a printing unit.~~

9. (Previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sheet has a thickness of between about 5 and 110 μm .

10. (Currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the detached elements are recovered by stripping, ~~in particular using a peel bar and suction~~.

11. (Currently amended): The manufacturing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the largest dimension of the detached element is between 0.5 and 6 mm, ~~preferably between 1 and 4 mm~~.

12. (Currently amended): A method of cutting out elements of relatively small size, ~~especially such as planchettes, wherein, starting from comprising:~~

~~- providing a sheet,~~
~~- cutting deeply right through said sheet is cut deeply “right through”, continuously, along by~~ a succession of at least two cutting patterns that intersect so as to constitute a resulting pattern that ~~will form~~ forms a detached element constituting the element of relatively small size, this cutting operation taking place using a succession of synchronized cutting cylinders ~~each~~ carrying ~~at least one respective cutting thread that cuts~~ one of the cutting patterns respectively, ~~anvil cylinders~~ ~~said cutting cylinders being in succession along a conveying path of the sheet, at least one anvil cylinder~~ being interposed between these cutting cylinders.

13. (Currently amended): A device for cutting out elements of relatively small size, ~~especially such as planchettes~~, wherein it comprises a rotary cutting device comprising a succession of synchronized cutting cylinders having respective cutting threads, said cutting cylinders being in succession along a conveyance path of a sheet to be cut, anvil cylinders being interposed between these cutting cylinders, the cutting threads on the cylinders being supplemented complementary so as to form an entire figure at least two cutting patterns that intersect so as to constitute a resulting pattern that forms a detached element from the sheet when the cutting cylinders rotate in a synchronized manner and when suitably adjusted.

14. (Currently amended): The cutting device as claimed in claim 13, wherein each cutting cylinder is a magnetic cylinder covered with a magnetizable flexible plate retained by demagnetization forces, ~~especially made of steel~~, bearing the cutting threads, which are electrochemically etched.

15. (Previously presented): The cutting device as claimed in claim 14, wherein it includes a base anvil cylinder.

16. (Currently amended): A device for manufacturing elements of relatively small size, ~~especially such as planchettes~~, wherein it includes a reel holder, a printing device, with at least one printing unit, and a cutting device ~~described in~~ as claimed in claim 13.

17. (Previously presented): The device as claimed in claim 16, wherein it includes a printing device having at least two printing units with a set of bars for turning the sheet over between the units.

18. (Previously presented): The device as claimed in claim 16, wherein it includes a printing unit having at least two printing units with a device for reversing the rotation of one of the printing units.

19. (Currently amended): The manufacturing device as claimed in claim 16, wherein it includes, after the cutting device, a stripping device, ~~in particular one using a peel bar and suction.~~

20. (Previously presented): The manufacturing device as claimed in claim 16, wherein it includes an antistatic treatment device.

21. (Currently amended): A security element of relatively small size, wherein it is obtained using the manufacturing ~~and/or cutting methods described in~~ method of claim 1 and ~~in~~ that it includes identification patterns observable to the naked eye.

22. (Currently amended): The security element as claimed in claim 21, wherein it includes patterns chosen from patterns ~~that are~~ visible in natural light, patterns visible under UV

light, luminescent patterns, ~~particularly~~ ~~fluorescent or patterns, phosphorescent patterns, which are patterns detectable by near infrared radiation, patterns detectable by intermediate infrared~~ radiation, thermochromic patterns, piezochromic patterns, patterns based on DNA tracers, patterns that are optically variable, ~~especially~~ ~~iridescent or patterns, patterns based on liquid crystals or, patterns based on~~ diffraction gratings, ~~or~~ moiré patterns, ~~or~~ holograms, electromagnetic patterns, ~~or~~ ~~and~~ combinations thereof.

23. (Currently amended): The security element as claimed in claim 21, wherein it includes, beneath or alongside said patterns, printing of electromagnetic, ~~especially magnetic, character and in particular continuous tracks or codes in the form of magnetic bits.~~

24. (Previously presented): The security element as claimed in claim 21, wherein it includes chemical authentication reactants or reactants that reveal a specific event.

25. (Currently amended): A security element of relatively small size, wherein it is obtained using the manufacturing ~~and/or cutting methods described in~~ ~~method of~~ claim 1, and wherein the shape of said element is a security characteristic.

26. (Currently amended): A security sheet comprising a fibrous substrate which includes at least one security element of relatively small size obtained using the manufacturing ~~and/or~~

~~cutting methods described in method of~~ claim 1.

27. (Currently amended): A decorative sheet comprising a fibrous substrate, which includes at least one decorative element of relatively small size obtained using the manufacturing ~~and/or cutting methods described in method of~~ claim 1.

28. (Original): A security document comprising, as base, a sheet as claimed in claim 26.

29. (Previously presented): A package comprising a sheet as claimed in claim 26.

30. (Previously presented): A security element as claimed in claim 21, wherein the shape of said element is a security characteristic.

31. (Currently amended): A security sheet comprising a fibrous substrate which includes at least one security element as ~~described~~claimed in claim 21.